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RAMSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

UPON THE

**Sanitary Conditions of the District
during the year 1957.**



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TO THE RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council.

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

MEMBERS OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

Chairman : F. G. Cooke

F. T. Allen. R. Bedford, J. R. Bridgestock, Mrs. M. Darby,
T. Edgley, C. W. Green (Chairman of the Council),
H. W. Haddon, G. S. O. Jennings, E. H. C. Jones,
A. E. Papworth, L. M. Slote.

STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
F. D. F. STEEDE, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
G. O. MARCH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	15,980 acres
Estimated Population (mid-1957)	...					5,690
Number of Inhabited Houses end						
				of 1957		1,829
Rateable Value	...	...	...			£45,131
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...			£ 176

REPORT OF M.O.H.

The general health of the District remains very good, and examination of the vital statistics would appear to indicate a very satisfactory state of affairs. However, the population remains entirely static and in fact is a hundred less now than in my first year as your Medical Officer of Health in 1950.

Undoubtedly the most important task still confronting the Council is the provision of more and better houses with a more vigorous approach to the question of slum clearance. In the past, housing development has been hampered by the lack of main drainage which is now happily in the course of being provided in the town area.

The lack of main drainage has also been a factor in preventing satisfactory structural standards to be attained in some of the food premises in the District. Every effort must be made to see that any such defects are speedily rectified.

The water supply situation has vastly improved by the inauguration of the "Cambridge Scheme." Nevertheless, alteration to the system of distribution to the Ramsey area, with the possible provision of a new trunk main, is a matter which is under consideration.

As regards the prevention of infectious disease, during my period of service with the Council the position as to both whooping cough and poliomyelitis has changed very considerably for the better with the widespread introduction of a satisfactory vaccine. Vaccination against whooping cough, with the whole-hearted support of the general medical practitioners, health visitors and midwives, has become a routine "must" in the District for all new-born infants.

In concluding this my final Annual Report, I should like to express my very great gratitude to the Members of the Council, their officers and staff both past and present who have done so much to ensure that my task has always been a happy one.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

Birth Rate per 1000 population 18.3

Still Births.

Rate per 1000 total births 28.0

Deaths.

Death Rate per 1000 population 8.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total }
(live and still) births } Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 28.8

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 28.8

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births Nil

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Actual No. of Deaths	3	3	2	3	3	3
Rates all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	27.8	25.6	18.5	28.6	26.1	28.8

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 11

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 1

RATES.

	Per 1000 Population.			Per 1000 live births	Per 1000 total Births
	Live Births	Crude Death Rate	Index Death Rate	Infantile Mortality	Still Births
Ramsey U.D. ...	18.3	8.3	9.2	28.8	28.0
England & Wales ...	16.1	11.5	11.5	23.0	22.4

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

				M.	F.	Total
Causes of Death.				22	25	47
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases			-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...		2	4	6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.			1	-	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms			1	3	4
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...		4	3	7
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	3	3	6
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...		1	-	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	3	3	6
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	-	1	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	1	-	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	1	-	1
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	...		-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...		-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...		1	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...		-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	-	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases			4	7	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	-	-	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	-	-	-
35.	Suicide	...	...	-	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...		-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities :

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) Ambulance Facilities :

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Peterborough at present.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases, ambulances are provided by the Huntingdon County Council from their depot at Huntingdon.

(c) Nursing in the Home :

Nursing in the home is carried out by three qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and it is understood that a report, which might well be made available to the District M.O.H. as a routine practice, is completed with details of home conditions and circumstances.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres :

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Health Clinic on the 2nd and last Wednesday every month from 2—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :-

School Clinic
(Minor Ailment)

Health Clinic 3rd Thursday
of the month, 10—12 noon

Ante-Natal	The Health Clinic Every Tuesday — 2—4 p.m.
Dental Clinic	The Health Clinic Wednesday and Friday 9—12 noon. 1.30—4.30 p.m.
Eyes	The Health Clinic, (as required)
Tuberculosis	1, Thorpe Road, Peterborough Every Monday — 2—4 p.m. By Appointment.
Orthopædic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough Every Monday, 2.15 p.m. By Appointment.
Nose, Throat and Ear Clinic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appointment.
Venereal Diseases	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough
Women Only	Fridays — 10.30—12 noon. Wednesdays — 5.30—7 p.m.
Men Only	Mondays — 5.30—7 p.m. Thursdays — 5.30—7 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) Hospitals:

(1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Disease at Peterborough

(2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital, the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, continue to carry out the general hospital services in the district.

(3) Provision is made for Maternity cases at the Maternity Unit, Huntingdon.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

TO THE MEDICAL OFFIER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

Housing

Limited progress is being made in dealing with individual houses unfit for human habitation under the Housing Acts.

A Clearance Order was confirmed at the beginning of the year, 9 families were re-housed by the Council and 10 houses demolished and cleared by the owner, who co-operated to the fullest extent.

A comprehensive Slum Clearance programme cannot be proceeded with owing to lack of re-housing accommodation.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	26
Number of inspections made for the purpose	80
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	6

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	6
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Action under Statutory Powers

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered so fit after service of formal notice. (Public Health Acts)	Nil
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. (Housing Act, 1936, Section 11) ...	1
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	5
Number of houses demolished	10
Number of families displaced	13

New Housing

During the year 18 new Council Houses were completed and 37 new houses were erected by private enterprise.

The Council now have a total of 519 houses, including 20 prefabricated bungalows. Of these houses 217 have been erected since 1946.

There are still 29 huts at the Wood Lane Camp in use for temporary housing accommodation.

Improvement Grants

The Council approved applications for Grant in respect of improvements to 5 houses, and for 1 case of conversion from one house into two houses.

Works of improvement on 15 houses and the conversion of one house into two were completed during the year.

Nuisances

Abated as a result of informal action	...	...	...	20
Analysis of complaints received :				
Premises	...	...	...	6
Accumulation of Refuse	...			4
Drains	...	...	...	8
Animals	...	...	...	2
				<hr/>
				20

Inspections and Visits

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	53
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	80
Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	39
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	37
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	7
Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	...	12
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	375
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	8
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	100
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	25
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	11
Mortuary	...	...	...	...	...	4
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	643
Council House Maintenance	...	...	...	...	...	875
New Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	288
Highways	...	...	...	...	...	257
Playing Fields	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	82

Total ... 2,907

Closets

Number of houses at the end of the year with W.C.'s	...	1023
" " " " " Pail Closets	...	790
" " " " " Privy Vaults	...	14
Number of W.C.'s constructed during the year for new houses	... ..	63
Number of W.C.'s newly constructed for old property	...	25

Milk Supply

Three milk distributors are registered and the following Supplementary Licences for the sale of milk were granted during the year:—

Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	Sterilised
2	5	1

Water Supply

Samples from the water supply from the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board are taken at regular intervals and forwarded to the Pathological Laboratory, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

No. of water samples taken from main supply	...	20
No. of satisfactory water samples	... ..	19
No. of unsatisfactory water samples	... ..	1*

* From ney main, a repeat sample proved satisfactory

Two short water main extensions at Holme Road, Ramsey St. Mary's, and Hollow Road, Forty Foot Bridge, were carried out during the year serving 18 properties.

Meat and Food Inspection

Slaughtering is being carried out at 3 slaughterhouses in the area, one butcher having ceased slaughtering in July, 1957.

The following table shows the results of the meat inspection service:—

Number of slaughterhouses on register	...	4
Number of visits for meat inspection	... ..	375

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	... 125 +	14	1	283 +	3435 +
Number Inspected	... 125	14	1	283	3435
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	... ..	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	... 10	3	—	—	3

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis ...	8%	21.4%	—	—	.1%
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	1	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tub- erculosis	3.2%	7%	—	—	.08%
Total weight of meat condemned				1,357 lbs.	
Total weight of other food condemned				95½ lbs.	

Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area by type of business are as under:—

Butchers' Shops	10
Grocers and General Stores	22
Greengrocers	6
Bakers	7
Confectioners	17
Fish Premises	4
Cafes, Restaurants, Hotels	5
Total	71

Number of Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Acts	23
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Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The need of an up to date system of sewerage for Ramsey Town is still an urgent necessity, as pointed out in previous Annual Reports.

A Tender for the new sewerage scheme for the Town area has been accepted and it is anticipated that actual work will commence in 1958.

Factories Act, 1937

Total number of Factories (including Bakehouses) ...	26
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Refuse Collection

Refuse is collected in the Town Arca weekly and on a fortnightly basis from Ramsey St. Mary's, The Heights, Ramsey Merc-side and Forty Foot Bridge by Contractors.

The Stocking Fen Tip is now used for composting night soil and refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in the disused pits at Brick Kilns Farm.

The collection of night soil is carried out by contract twice weekly in the Town and weekly in the outside areas. Although this is an absolute necessity, it is a system which is full of complaints and one which can only be abolished by the provision of a proper sewerage scheme. Difficulty is still being experienced in the disposal of night soil; at the present time it is composted with straw, etc.

The average cost of collection of disposal of refuse and night soil is 7.7d. per pail and 6.5d. per bin respectively.

The Council provide a free cesspool and septic tank emptying service where required, 131 being emptied during the year.

Moveable Dwellings

During the year 13 licences were granted to erect station and use moveable dwellings under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Moveable dwellings are inspected from time to time to ensure that the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

Rodent Control

A rodent control service is provided for private and business premises in the area under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. The rodent operator inspected 858 properties and carried out 80 treatments in cases of infestation.

The sewers in the Town are tested regularly and one major infestation in "The Archcs" under Great Whyte, was successfully treated.

General

In conclusion may I express my appreciation of the active interest and support of the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health for his advice, and the Staff and Workmen for their co-operation.

G. O. MARCH,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1957.

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year three new cases of tuberculosis were notified. Two of these were pulmonary and one non-pulmonary. No deaths occurred from this disease.

Male		Female	
Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary
18	5	13	5

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health.

